

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 DPW-01 IO-03 EUR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2930

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10317

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR 1, X PLUS

131, JUNE 8, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM DANANG JUNE 8

REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE DANANG 0656

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR I INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY. THE NUMBER OF REPORTED CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS NEARLY DOUBLED TO 32, INCLUDING 3 GROUND ATTACKS, 27 ABFS MADE UP OF 515 ROUNDS, AND 2 HARASSING INCIDENTS. QUANG NGAI SEEMED THE CENTER OF MUCH OF THE ACTIVITY, RECORDED 11 VIOLATIONS. MOST D1 MOVIC ATTACKS OCCURRED AGAINST REGIONAL FORCE AND SPECIAL MISSION FORCE ELEMENTS ON BACH MA MOUNTAIN (ZC060925) IN SOUTHERN- MOST THUA THIEN PROVINCE. IN THAT INCIDENT ENEMY FIRED 57 MM, B40 AND B41 AND PRESSED 2 GROUND ATTACKS RESULTING IN 4 FRIENDLY KIA, 5 WIA, 7 ENEMY KIA, 2 B40'S AND 4 AK'S CAPTURED. ELEMENTS OF THE 69 TH RANGER BATTALION TOOK A MAJOR ABF OF 150 ROUNDS NORTHEAST OF MINH LONG DISTRICT TOWN IN CONFIDENTIAL

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QUANG NGAI. CORPS- WIDE CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 10 KIA, 1 MIA, 33 WIA; ENEMY 15 KIA. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 2209 ROUNDS, 580 NORTH OF HAI VAN PASS AND 1629 SOUTH.

2. ICCS ACTIVITIES:

A. ON JUNE 7 POLOFFS ACCOMPANIED CHIEF INDODEL AND CHIEF CANDEL, C- F REGION 2, ON INFORMAL RECONNAISSANCE SPONSORED BY I CORPS CHIEF OF STAFF TO BACH MA, FORMER FRENCH MOUNTAIN RESORT 25 KMS WEST OF HAI VAN PASS ON THUA THIEN- QUANG NAM BORDER. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY (DANANG 620, JUNE 4), ONE RF COMPANY FROM THUA THIEN NOW OCCUPIES THIS MOUNTAIN TOP AND WILL CONTINUE PRACTICE OF SENDING LONG RANGE PATROLS INTO RUONG RUONG VALLEY. (PER PARA 1, BACH MA WAS ATTACKED 12 HOURS LATER.)

B. ACCORDING TO QUANG NGAI POLOFF THE CHU LAI ICCS TEH VISITED DUC PHO DISTRICT JUNE 5 TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION OF AN ENEMY ATTACK ON THE JOINT ARVN/ RF OUTPOST AT NUI DAU (BS873329) ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 3. THE TEAM WAS REPORTEDLY SHOWN THE BODIES OF SIX NVA SOLDIERS KILLED IN THE ATTACK AND AN ASSORTMENT OF WEAPONS CAPTURED BY THE DEFENDERS. ALL FOUR PARTIES PARTICIPATED IN THE INVESTIGATION AND TRAVELED BY HELICOPTER TO THE INVESTIGATION SITE.

3. MFOMMUNIST MILITARY ACTIVITY:

A. MONITORED VC RADIO TRANSMISSIONS INDICATE THAT THE PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF ARVN AND RANGER TROOPS IN THE SONG VE VALLEY AND IN THE MO DUC- DUC PHO BORDER AREA IS INTERFERING WITH ENEMY EFFORTS TO TRANSPORT RICE FROM CACHES IN THE LOWLANDS TO THE PRG'S MOUNTAIN SANCTUARIES. QUANG NGAI SECTOR INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS HAVE TOLD QUANG NGAI POLOFF THAT THEY BELIEVE THE VC HAVE SOME 20 TONS OF RECENTLY HARVESTED RICE CACHED IN NORTHWESTERN MO JUC DISTRICT AND ANOTHER 30 TONS CACHED IN PHO AN VILLAGE, NORTHEASTERN DUC PHO DISTRICT. DURING THE PAST WEEK ARVN UNITS HAVE DISCOVERED RICE CACHES CONTAINING MORE THAN SIX TONS OF RICE.

B. QUANG NGAI SECTOR INTELLIGENCE INFORMED QUANG NGAI POLOFF JUNE 6 THAT THE PRG IS CONSCRIPTING ADDITIONAL LABORERS IN NORTHWESTERN BINH SON DISTRICT TO CARRY OUT FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS ON THE TRAIL BETWEEN THANH TRA (BS5 25940) AND MY SON IN SOUTHERN QUANG TIN DISTRICT (BT355025). PLANS ARE TO WIDEN THE ROAD TO 4 METERS AND MAKE IT A MAJOR COMMUNICATIONS AND SUPPLY ROUTE. THERE ARE CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT A GMC TRUCK, SEVERAL HONDAS AND ROUGHLY 80 PACK BICYCLES ARE CURRENTLY TRANSPORTING GOODS OVER THE TRAIL.
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4. COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA:

QUANG NGAI POLOFF REPORTS THAT RUMORS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING THAT WITH KISSINGER'S RETURN TO PARIS SUPPLEMENTARY CEASEFIRE ACCORD WILL BE SIGNED SHORTLY AND WILL INCLUDE PROVISION FOR CEDING TERRITORY IN QUANG NGAI TO PRG. RUMORS, SAID TO HAVE BEEN INITIATED BY VC PROPAGANDISTS, ARE THAT PRG WILL C VE UP LEOPARD SPOT AREAS IN OTHER PARTS OF SVN IN EXCHANGE FOR LARGE CONSOLIDATED AREA IN WESTERN QUANG NGAI. FOR MOST PART RUMORS DO NOT RPT NOT APPEAR TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

5. TRADE WITH THE ENEMY IN QUANG NAM:

PRRO QUANG NAM REPORTS THAT, BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH PROVINCE CHIEF COL VU TIEN PHUC, THE SALE OF GOODS, ESPECIALLY RICE AND

SALT, TO THE VC APPEARED TO REACH A HIGH POINT ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO, AND HAS SINCE DROPPED OFF. PHUC BELIEVES THE THREE MAIN TRADING AREAS ARE IN PHU THO, QUE SON DISTRICT, TAN QUIT IN DIEN BAN, AND NAM O IN HOA VANG. THE LATTER IS ESPECIALLY USED FOR OBTAINING GOODS FROM DANANG. HE CLAIMS THE AMOUNT OF TRADE AT PHU THO IS ABOUT 700,000\$ VN PER MONTH. (CONGEN COMMENT: PREVIOUS SURVEYS AND REPORTS FROM QUE SON DISTRICT HAVE INDICATED THE LEVEL OF TRADE WAS MUCH HIGHER. END CONGEN COMMENT). THE COMMUNISTS ARE REPORTEDLY WILLING TO PAY UPWARDS OF 125 TO 135\$ VN PER KILO FOR RICE, WHICH IS 15 TO 20 PERCENT ABOVE THE PREVAILING PRICE. TO PRRO QUANG NAM'S KNOWLEDGE RICE AND SALT ARE THE MAIN ITEMS BEING TRADED, AND THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF SALES OF ANY BIG ITEMS SUCH AS REPORTED FROM QUANG NGAI. THE RECENT SERIES OF ARRESTS OF HOA VANG VCI (DANANG 620, PARA 5) WAS REPORTEDLY A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE COMMUNIST SUPPLY ORGANIZATION, AND THE PROVINCE CHIEF INDICATES A SIMILAR ROUND- UP IS ABOUT TO BE MADE IN THE NAM O AREA.

6. DEMOCRACY PARTY:

A DP DELEGATION FROM SAIGON IS TO VISIT QUANG NGAI JUNE 6 TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE MAY 27 ASSASSINATION OF A NEWLY ELECTED VILLAGE OFFICIAL IN NGHIA HUNG (V), NGHIA HANH DISTRICT. THOUGH THE OFFICIAL WAS REPORTEDLY A MEMBER OF THE DP, POLICE OFFICIALS DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THE MOTIVE FOR THE ASSASSINATION WAS IN ANY WAY RELATED TO HIS DP AFFILIATION. THE DP NEVERTHELESS SEEMS INTENT UPON GAINING AS MUCH POLITICAL CAPITAL FROM THE INCIDENT AS POSSIBLE. ONE ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICIAL WAS ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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KILLED IN THE ATTACK AND TWO OTHERS WOUNDED. THE INCUMBENT VILLAGE CHIEF, ALSO A MEMBER OF THE DP, ESCAPED INJURY.

7. GROWING FEARS OF DROUGHT:

CONCERN IN SOUTHERN MR I REGARDING A POSSIBLE DROUGHT CONTINUES (DANANG 596, PARA 6); WATER SOURCES ARE ALREADY VERY LOW, AND THE RAINY SEASON IS STILL 3 MONTHS AWAY. IN QUANG NGAI, PRODUCER OF NEARLY 60 PERCENT OF THE REGIONAL RICE CROP, LOSS OF AT LEAST 20 PERCENT OF THE CURRENT CROP IS FEARED. SIGNED BROWN UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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